

Doug Ducey Governor



Robert Broscheid Executive Director



October 1, 2020

Ms. Kristine Firethunder Executive Director Governor's Office of Tribal Relations 1700 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: FY 2020 State Parks Board Tribal Consultation and Outreach Annual Report

(A.R.S. § 41-2051)

Dear Ms. Firethunder:

Please find attached the statutory annual report on tribal consultation and outreach evaluating the performance and activities of Arizona State Parks and Trails in Fiscal Year 2020.

We have summarized the key activities undertaken by the Director and agency. Our primary activity has been building relationships, developing performance measures, and instituting internal practices to support our agency's commitment to strong relationships with Arizona's tribes.

If you have any questions or require additional information related to this report, please do not hesitate to contact our tribal liaison, Brittany Hudson, by email at <a href="mailto:bhudson@azstateparks.gov">bhudson@azstateparks.gov</a> or by telephone at (602) 542-7103.

Best,

Timothy Franquist Deputy Director

Arizona State Parks and Trails



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## **Agency Overview:**

The mission of Arizona State Parks & Trails (ASPT) is managing and conserving Arizona's natural, cultural and recreational resources for the benefit of people, both in our parks and through our partners at 35 state parks and natural areas. The agency also manages the state trails program; outdoor recreation grants program; statewide outdoor recreation planning; off-highway vehicle program; and the State Historic Preservation Office, which is responsible for administering federal and state compliance activities related to historical preservation and the protection of antiquities. This breadth of activity illustrates the need for ASPT to maintain a meaningful and collaborative relationship with all our tribal partners.

ASPT continues to focus on strengthening existing relationships and building new relationships with tribal communities, train and educate staff about cultural sensitivity and compliance with federal and state cultural laws, and refining internal processes and programs that intersect with tribal nations. As outlined below, Director Broscheid and his team continued work that was started in 2019 in continuing to build relationships with tribal nations, creating a culture of partnership, and renewing the agency's longstanding commitment to preservation.

## **Highlights:**

- The agency created a tribal consultation standard work internal document that effectively outlines the tribal consultation process through a step by step analysis.
- The agency developed a standard project development process that has tribal consultation upfront in the process to where the agency can receive tribal input in the beginning of a project versus near the time of construction which was an issue in the past.
- The Director and tribal liaison have been working on a partnership with the Yavapai-Apache Nation to allow for the use of undeveloped Parks land to help with water flow into the Verde river for the Nation.

## **Challenges:**

• There were unexpected challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic with visiting tribal nations in person in order to have continued discussions in developing our tribal consultation policy document. The agency has continued to communicate with tribal nations via telephone and email to continue tribal consultations and will be looking forward to meeting with tribal nations in person in fiscal year 2021 to continue conversations for developing our new tribal consultation policy.

Looking toward 2021, the agency's major objectives are finalizing the new tribal consultation policy to include tribal input by the fall of 2021, meeting with tribal communities post pandemic



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## ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

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and effectively consulting with tribes on all development processes often and in a timely manner, and working together as an agency to continue to foster park engagement with all tribal communities.

Area	Activities
Executive Commitment to Connecting with Tribal Leaders	<ul> <li>Director and tribal liaison have been corresponding with the Yavapai-Apache Nation to work towards a future partnership to help with water flow to the Nation.</li> <li>During these conversations, the team has expressed excitement to meet. Tribal liaison is currently working with the Nation to plan a meet and greet with the Chairman of the Nation.</li> </ul>
Internal Agency- Wide Activities	<ul> <li>Developed new standard work processes for building development, grants management, and tribal consultation.</li> <li>The agency hired a new tribal liaison in March of 2020 to continue to build upon the work that was started in Fiscal Year 2019.</li> </ul>
External Agency-Wide Activities	<ul> <li>The tribal liaison instituted contact with tribes listed in the Government to Government portal. These connections have resulted in tribes getting to know the tribal liaison and building relationships with the tribal leaders in order to schedule future meetings with the tribal communities post the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Director and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) continues to advocate for cultural resource protection including beginning work on an agency strategic process improvement project regarding cultural resource protection.</li> <li>SHPO continues to serve as a resource for state agencies regarding tribal consultation and compliance with state and federal cultural resources law.</li> <li>Agency continues to support the development of a new database and materials to support the Site Steward volunteers who protect archaeological sites in the state and annual conference planning for the program.</li> </ul>